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AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Rise, Constitution and Management,

OF THE

SOCIETY

IN

SCOTLAND,

For Propagating

CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

Second Edition.

Enlarged by a MEMBER of the SOCIETY.

EDINBURGH,

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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE PREFACE.

CHARITY is ſo often demanded, that which is given ſo often miſapplyed, and it is frequently ſo hard to diſtinguiſh proper Objects of Charity from ſuch as are not; that many who are willing to beſtow ſome Part of their Subſtance this way, are yet hindered from doing ſo, leſt what they give ſhould not be duely applied to anſwer their End. But 'tis hoped the following Account of our Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, will fully remove thoſe Objections; and in the mean time, we take leave to ſay, that

We have certainly the ſtrongeſt Motives that can be to Works of Charity: We have God's Command; we have Motives from the Objects themſelves, that cannot but excite Sympathy and Compaſſion in ſuch as are not diveſted of Humanity; we have Encouragements from large Promiſes of a very ample Return. Our Saviour aſſures us, that if we give it ſhall be given unto us, good meaſure preſſed down, ſhaken together and running over. *The wiſe Man adviſes,* the honouring of God with our Subſtance, that our Barns may be filled with Plenty; *and he aſſures us,* there is that ſcattereth and yet increaſeth, and there is that with-holdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to Poverty. The liberal Soul ſhall be made fat: He that watereth ſhall be watered *And God reckons,* what is given to the Poor, lent to himſelf, which he will ſurely repay.

Could the World be once convinced that Deeds of Charity are the moſt effectual Methods, not only to ſecure, but to increaſe their Wealth, enough would certainly be found ready to anſwer all Demands of that Nature: But the Miſery is, that though we profeſs our ſelves Chriſtians, and conſequently to give entire Credit to all that God has reveal'd, yet ſtill we act as if all ſuch Promiſes and Encouragements, were but words of Courſe, and not to be depended upon. With ſome, it is a plauſible Argument againſt complying with farther reaſonable Demands of Charity, that they have already expended much that way: Were the Rewards promiſed to our Charity ſtinted and limited, it would then be reaſonable that our Charity ſhould alſo be confined within certain Limits; but when we are aſſured that it ſhall be meaſured to us again with a fuller Meaſure than we met withal, we can be no loſers, be the Objects ever ſo extenſive, or the Demands ever ſo often repeated. The Returns to Charity from a right Principle, and beſtowed in a right Way, are not confined to this World: But through Perſons and Families have frequently large Returns, even here, yet all that can be got this Way, falls infinitely ſhort of the full Recompence that God beſtows hereafter.

He could eaſily have provided for the neceſſary Demands of all his Creatures, without making ſome obliged to others for what they want: But he has thought fit, in his All-wiſe Providence, to order Matters ſo, as that ſome ſhall have a Dependance upon, and Supplies from others; and ſure thoſe whom he has enabled to give, even though there were no Returns for what they beſtow, have leaſt Reaſon to complain.

Where Charity is extended to a Care and Proviſion, not only for the Concerns of Time, but Eternity, there, certainly it is carried to its greateſt height, and may expect the greateſt Returns; and ſince we are aſſured, that they who turn many to Righteouſneſs ſhall ſhine

ſhine as the Stars for ever and ever; *we ſhould be inflamed with intenſe Love to the Souls of Men, and made ſollicitous to find out Methods to promote their Eternal Happineſs. For it is a melancholy Reflection that any ſhould be born and educated among Chriſtians, and yet live and die utter Strangers to all the great Advantages that our Holy Religion gives us, beyond others. To obviate this, it is the Deſign of this Society, that the Wealthy may be ſtirred up to be alſo Rich in Good Works; that the Holy Scriptures, th ſe Fountains of Everlaſting Life, may be opened to the Poor, through their Beneficence, that the Spiritually Blind may ſee, the Lame walk, the Lepers be cleanſed, Devils caſt out, and that to the Poor the Goſpel may be preached. What Satisfaction can a Man expect greater, than being Inſtrumental in ſo good a Work? The very Return that thoſe who receive theſe Benefits make, is a great Encouragement. If the Curſes of the Poor ſhall be heard of him that made them, much more will the Prayers and Interceſſions of theſe who are thus Inſtructed, be accepted of God in behalf of their Benefactors.*

The following Account preſents the Reader with a ſure way of laying out a little Money, ſo as to anſwer the main Ends of beſtowing Charity: And this is Publiſhed for the Satisfaction of thoſe who have already Contributed, that they may ſee what they have Given is ſecured and Laid out in the beſt Way poſſible to anſwer their Deſign, and for the Encouragement of others, who may hereafter Contribute towards the carrying on of this ſo pious and uſeful an undertaking.

The Particulars of this Paper are ſufficiently Vouched by the Letters and Reports from Presbyterys, Miniſters, and School-Maſters, Regiſters, and Books of the Society, and other Papers in their Secretaries Hands, who is ready to ſhow the ſame, to any Contributer, who doubts thereof, and deſires to be ſatisfied.

An Account of the Riſe, Conſtitution and Management, of the Society in Scotland *for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge.*

THE Deſign of Erecting a Society in *Scotland* for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, took its Riſe among a few private Gentlemen that did uſually meet in *Edinburgh* for Reformation of Manners; who *Anno* 1701, reflecting upon the Ignorance, Atheiſm, Popery and Impiety, that did ſo much abound in the Highlands and Iſles of *Scotland*, did juſtly reckon that they flowed, in a great Meaſure, from the want of ſuitable Means of Inſtruction.

It's fit to be obſerved here, that many of thoſe Highlanders, *&c.* are in an Intereſt abſolutely inconſiſtent with the Safety of the Government: For they are bred in Principles of Tyranny, depend upon the Pope as Head of their Church upon a Popiſh Pretender, bred up in the Maxims of Arbitrary Government, as their Rightful Sovereign: Upon Foreign Papiſts, as the main Support of their Expectations; and upon the Native Iriſh as their beſt Correſpondents and Allies. And to keep them in thoſe wretched dependencies, the propagation of true Chriſtian Knowledge, and of the Engliſh Tongue, has all along been oppoſed by the Popiſh Heads of Clans.

Many of theſe People finding they can live (tho' but meanly) without Labour, love to ſanter at home, and waſte their time in Idleneſs, where-

by

by they are render'd uncapable of being imploy'd in Husbandry, Fiſhery, Manufactures, Handicrafts, Navigation, or of bearing Arms by Land or Sea; whereas by being inſtructed, their averſion to Induſtry would be removed, and they might be induced to take themſelves to ſome honeſt Imployment for their Subſiſtance, by which great Advantages would accrue to the Government and Country, vaſt Tracts of Land in the Highlands, which lye uſeleſs, might be cultivated, and the Fiſheries in Lakes, Bays and Seas, which are neglected, might be improv'd, and a Nurſery of Seamen bred for Ships of Trade and War, and alſo of Men to ſerve by Land when Occaſion requires it.

Beſides, what an advantagious Exchange would it be to thoſe poor People, who now live under Chriſtianity, in groſs Ignorance corrupted by Popery, and in the height of Immorality, Poverty and Idleneſs, the greateſt Miſeries that can befal Men, to be taught the true Chriſtian Religion, good Morals, and an induſtrious Way of Living, by which they may have a competent Maintainance for themſelves and Families, a ſhare of the Liberties and Priviledges of other Natives, and of the well-grounded Hopes and Expectations of true Chriſtians.

The Gentlemen above-mentioned did at firſt by themſelves, attempt to do ſomewhat for removing the Cauſes of this melancholly State of the Highlands; and to this end, engaged in a voluntary Subſcription for Money to be imployed in erecting Charity Schools,

The firſt Place pitch'd on for this purpoſe was *Abertarf*, in the Shire of *Inverneſs*, being the Center of a Country where Popery does much abound: But the School-Maſter met with ſuch Diſcouragements from the Inha-

bitants, as obliged him to break up after a Year and a half's Labour.

But the Gentlemen, having by this Trial, found themſelves not able, in their private Capacity, to carry on ſo great and publick a Work, applied their Thoughts to find out Methods by which ſuch Funds might be ſettled, and ſo many Perſons concerned, as might be equal to the Deſign.

In purſuance of this, they applied themſelves privately to Members of the General Aſſembly, that the Repreſentatives of this National Church might concur in the Work; and had ſo much Succeſs, that in the Year 1706 the General Aſſembly took it under Conſideration, and recommended the ſame to their Commiſſion, who after ſeveral Conferences with the above-mentioned Gentlemen, publiſhed Propoſals for propagating of Chriſtian Knowledge in the Highlands and Iſles of *Scotland*, and Foreign Parts of the World. To theſe Propoſals was annexed the Form of an Obligation, to be ſubſcribed by all ſuch as were willing to promote and encourage ſo good a Work. The Propoſals were ſent to all the Presbyteries in *Scotland*, and to the Societies in *Edinburgh* and elſewhere, for Reformation of Manners.

The General Aſſembly, *Anno* 1708; did fully inſtruct their Commiſſion, in this Matter, *ſee Act 9. Paragraph 9.* as alſo named a Committee for receiving Reports from Presbyteries, with Relation to Subſcriptions.

Her Majeſty Queen *Anne* was alſo pleaſed, after proper Application, to Countenance and Support this Deſign by Her Royal Authority, ſignified in a Proclamation, dated at *Kenſington* the 18th Day of *Auguſt* 1708, in the ſeventh Year of Her Reign: The ſubſtance whereof is narrated in the Letters Patent after inſert.

The

The General Aſſembly 19th *April* alſo 1709, granted an Act and Recommendation for the furthering this Deſign, which is as follows.

The General Aſſembly taking to their ſerious Conſideration, the Inſtructions given by the laſt Aſſembly to their Commiſſion, to give all due Aſſiſtance and Encouragement to any Propoſals to be made for propagating the Knowledge of God and our Lord Jeſus Chriſt in the *North*, the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, and foreign Parts of the World, and that the ſaid Aſſembly had appointed a Committee to receive in Reports from Presbyteries of the Advances made in the Subſcriptions for promoting the foreſaid Deſign, and to Act and Manage in that Matter under the Inſpection, and by the Direction of the foreſaid Commiſſion, and the General Aſſembly having heard the Report of the ſaid Commiſſion, that there are now very conſiderable Advances made in the ſaid Subſcriptions; And Her Majeſty having by Her Royal Proclamation, dated the Eighteenth Day of *Auguſt* laſt by paſt, with the Advice of Her Privy Council Approven of, and Recommended the aforeſaid Charitable Deſign, and Declared Her Reſolution, to grant Her Letters Patent for Erecting the Subſcribers into a Society and Corporation for managing that Affair; And the General Aſſembly conſidering that the Glory of GOD, and the Advancement of the Kingdom of Chriſt in the Eternal Salvation of the Immortal Souls of People, are deeply Intereſted in this truly Pious and Glorious Deſign; And that the Zeal and Forewardneſs of others, both in *England* and the united Provinces, in carrying on ſuch a Work, hath been bleſſed of GOD, with wonderful and comfortable Succeſs; do's therefore with all earneſtneſs, beſeech and exhort all the People

of

of this National Church, to contribute their beſt Endeavours in their Stations, to promote this noble and excellent Undertaking; and particularly that in Zeal for the Glory of God, and in Pity and Compaſſion toward many Thouſands in this Church and Nation, eſpecially in the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, who live in Barbarity and Ignorance, and toward ſo great a part of the World, as is this Day periſhing for lack of Knowledge, they would cheerfully embrace this precious Opportunity of Honouring the LORD with their Subſtance, and making to themſelves Friends of the Mammon of Unrighteouſneſs; and the Aſſembly does ſeriouſly recommend to the Miniſters and Elders of this Church; to go through their reſpective Pariſhes, on ſuch Days as the ſeveral Presbyteries ſhall Appoint, and receive and collect Subſcriptions for, or Contributions of Money from ſuch Perſons, whoſe Hearts GOD ſhall incline thereunto; and that Miniſters take occaſion on a Sabbath before they begin this Work, to Read and Intimate this Act from the Pulpit to their reſpective Congregations, and to exhort, excite, and ſtir up their People to Subſcribe, or Contribute according to their Ability on this Occaſion; and the Aſſembly does hereby recommend to the ſeveral Presbyteries within this Church to be careful to promote the taking Subſcriptions, and making Collections for the End foreſaid, within their reſpective Bounds, ſo ſoon as conveniently can be; and where Pariſhes are Vacant, that they appoint ſome of their Number to preach and intimate this Act, and join with the Elders of ſuch Pariſhes, if any be, or with ſuch of the Heritors or Pariſhoners as will aſſiſt in taking Subſcriptions and making Collection as is above expreſt; and that the ſeveral Presbyteries do without

out Delay call for, and take in Reports from all the Miniſters within their Bounds, containing a particular Account of the Subſcribers and Sums ſubſcribed for, and Money Collected in each Pariſh, and ſend an Extract thereof Subſcribed by their Moderator and Clerk, to the Clerk of the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, and thereafter upon Advertiſement from the ſaid Commiſſion, ſend in the principal Subſcriptions and Money Collected, to be delivered to any Perſon whom the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, when Conſtituted, ſhall appoint to receive the ſame, upon his Receipt thereof; and the General Aſſembly does hereby Inſtruct and Impower their Commiſſion to be appointed by them, to promote by all proper Means the foreſaid Glorious Deſign of propagating Chriſtian Knowledge; and appoints the Agents of the Church, to diſpatch Printed Copies of this Act to all the Presbyteries of this Church, for the Ends foreſaid. *Extracted from the Records of the General Aſſembly, By* Jo. Dundas *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

As ſoon as the foreſaid Gentlemen had got Subſcriptions for above a Thouſand Pounds Sterling, they addreſs'd Her Majeſty to grant Her Letters Patent for erecting the Subſcribers into a Society; which was granted in the following Terms.

"ANNE

" *ANNE*, by the Grace of God, Queen of " *Great Britain*, *France* and *Ireland*, Defender " of the Faith: To all good People, to whoſe " knowledge theſe Preſents ſhall come, Greeting: " Foraſmuch as We underſtanding the Charitable " Inclinations of many of our Subjects for raiſing " a voluntary Contribution towards the farther " promoting Chriſtian Knowledge, and the in- " creaſe of Piety and Virtue within *Scotland*, " eſpecially in the Highlands, Iſlands, and re- " mote Corners thereof, where Error, Idolatry Su- " perſtition and Ignorance, do moſtly abound, by " reaſon of the largeneſs of Paroches and ſcarcity " of Schools, and for propagating the ſame in " Popiſh and Infidel Parts of the World: And " We having by Our Royal Proclamation, dated " the 18th Day of *Auguſt* 1708, with the Ad- " vice of Our Privy Council, Approven of, and " recommended the foreſaid Charitable Deſign, " and declared Our Reſolution to grant theſe " Our Letters Patent for erecting the Subſcribers " into a Society and Corporation for managing " the ſaid Contribution: And now finding that " the Sum propoſed for Beginning this good Work " is already ſubſcribed for, and We judging " that Our granting theſe Our Letters Patent for " erecting and ſettling the foreſaid Corporation " and Society, will be highly conduſive for ac- " compliſhing theſe pious Ends propoſed, and that " many others will be hereby induced the more " cheerfully to extend their Charity to the Uſe " aforeſaid: And alſo We conſidering that the " the Subſcribers to this Undertaking are diffu- " ſed in ſeveral Countries and remote Places, ſo that " it is not eaſy for them to nominate and elect the " Members which ſuch a Corporation ought to

" con-

" conſiſt of, did by Our foreſaid Proclamation
" judge it convenient, that the firſt Nomination
" of the Members of the ſaid Society ſhould be
" made by the Lord Preſident and other Lords of
" Our Council and Seſſion in *Scotland*, out of the
" Subſcribers. And now the Subſcribers, in com-
" plyance with Our Judgment ſignified in the ſaid
" Proclamation, having requeſted that the ſaid
" Nomination, ſhould be in manner before and
" after mentioned: Therefore, and for the better
" and more orderly carrying on this good Deſign,
" We have willed, allowed, confirmed and eſta-
" bliſhed, like as by theſe Preſents We allow, con-
" firm and eſtabliſh the foreſaid Power and Right
" of the firſt Nomination in the Perſons of the
" ſaid Lord Preſident, and other Lords of Our
" Council and Seſſion in *Scotland*. And farther,
" We do make, conſtitute, appoint and ordain,
" the Perſons to be named out of the Subſcribers
" and Contributors, by the ſaid Lord Preſident
" and other Lords of Seſſion, (and which Nomi-
" nation is hereby ordained to be recorded with
" theſe Preſents in the Regiſters of our Chancel-
" lary in *Scotland*) to be an Incorporation, Society
" and Body Politick, by the Name of *The Society*
" *in* Scotland *for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge*:
" Like as We for Ourſelf and Our Royal Succeſ-
" ſors by theſe Preſents, do make, conſtitute, ap-
" point, ordain and declare, the Perſons to be
" named by the ſaid Lords of Seſſion, and record-
" ed herewith in manner aforeſaid, and their Suc-
" ceſſors to be elected in manner after-mention'd,
" to be a Legal Society and Corporation; and
" grant unto them full Power to receive Subſcrip-
" tions, Mortifications, Donations, Legacies,
" Sums of Money, Lands, Goods and Gear, and
" therewith to Erect and Maintain Schools, to

teach

" teach to Read, eſpecially the Holy Scriptures
" and other good and pious Books; as alſo to
" teach Writing, Arithmetick, and ſuch like de-
" grees of Knowledge in the Highlands, Iſlands
" and remote Corners of *Scotland*, and other
" Parts above-mentioned, and to uſe ſuch Means
" for inſtructing the People in the Chriſtian Re-
" formed Proteſtant Religion as may be compe-
" tent: And which Society are hereby ordained to
" have a General Meeting of the Members there-
" of Quarterly at *Edinburgh* in the Town-Hall,
" the firſt *Thurſdays* of *January*, *March June* and
" *November* Yearly, in all Time coming at Three
" of the Clock in the Afternoon, and oftener when
" and where the Society ſhall think meet; and
" any Nine of the Members of the ſaid Society
" who ſhall conveen at the ſaid Time and Place,
" are hereby declared to be a Quorum of the ſaid
" General Meeting; but ſtill reſerving to the ſaid
" Lords of Seſſion, upon Application of the ſaid
" Society, a Power to alter the Quorum as ſhall
" be found needful: And the Society at their firſt
" General Meeting, are by Plurality of Voices to
" elect one of their Number to be Preſident there-
" of, as alſo a Treaſurer, a Secretary or Clerk,
" one or more, and other Officers and Servants,
" as they ſhall find needful, to continue 'till the
" firſt *Thurſday* of *January* next thereafter, or un-
" til others be choſen to ſucceed them, and upon
" the firſt *Thurſday* of *January* Yearly in all time
" coming, (and in caſe of any extraordinary emer-
" gent ſtopping them from meeting that Day)
" the next Meeting thereafter, the aforeſaid Gene-
" ral Meeting is appointed to make a new Ele-
" ction of Perſons to ſerve in theſe Offices, or con-
" tinue the former, as ſhall be thought moſt con-
" venient: And the Preſident at the time of their

" Ele-

" Election is hereby impowered to adminiſter an " Oath *De Fideli Adminiſtratione Officii* to the " Clerk, and thereafter the Clerk to adminiſter " the like Oath to the Preſident; and then the " Preſident is to adminiſtrate the ſame Oath, *De* " *Fideli Adminiſtratione Officii*, to each of the reſt, " before they act in their reſpective Offices. And " farther, We by theſe Preſents do fully Impower " and Authoriſe the foreſaid Society, at any of " their Quarterly Meetings in time coming, to " aſſume into their Number and Society ſuch of " the Subſcribers or Contributors (being Prote- " ſtants) as they ſhall judge fit and qualified for " aſſiſting to carry on this Deſign. And likewiſe " the ſaid general Meeting are hereby Impowered " and Ordained at their Meeting Yearly, to no- " minate Fifteen of their Number to be a Com- " mittee, to meet at *Edinburgh* the firſt *Thurſday* " of each Month, and oftner as need requires, " in ſuch Places as ſhall be agreed upon by the " General Meeting: And the ſaid Committee, or " any three of them, at the uſual time and Place of " Meeting, are to proſecute the Orders of the Ge- " neral Meeting, audite the Treaſurer's Accompts, " and ripen and prepare Overtures and Matters, " and this Committee to continue for One Year; " but to lay an Account of their whole Tranſa- " ctions and Management before the General " Meetings quarterly. And further, the General " Meetings are hereby Impower'd, as they ſhall " ſee cauſe, to nominate fit Perſons in any Places " of our Dominions, or elſewhere, for receiving " Subſcriptions, Money, or other Things, con- " tributed toward the foreſaid Deſign, and to " tranſmit Accounts thereof to the Committee " at *Edinburgh*, or the General Meeting; and al- " ſo, for laying out ſuch Sums as they ſhall be in-

" truſted

" truſted with, and order'd by the Society to lay " out, and for enquiring concerning the Faithful- " neſs, Diligence and Succeſs, of the Perſons im- " ploy'd upon the foreſaid Fund, and for keeping " a Correſpondence with the Committee at *Edin- " burgh* about theſe Particulars, and what elſe " concerns the aforeſaid Society. And farther, the " foreſaid Society is hereby declared to be able " and capable in Law to purchaſe and enjoy " Lands, Tenements, Rents, Tacks, Liberties, " Privileges and Juriſdictions, in Fee and Per- " petuity, not exceeding the Yearly Value of Two " Thouſand Pound *Sterling*, and all other moveа- " ble Eſtates, Debts, Sums of Money, Goods " and Gear whatſoever, and the Rents, Reve- " nues, Annual Rents and Profits of the Capital " Stock, to expend, ware out and beſtow, for the " ſupport and maintainance of the ſaid pious De- " ſign for propagating the Knowledge of Chriſt, " erecting and maintaining Schools, and other " pious Uſes above-mentioned, as the fore- " ſaid Society ſhall ſee cauſe. Likeas We by " theſe Preſents do declare this Society by the " Name aforeſaid, able and capable by themſelves " or their Procurators or Attorneys in their Name, " to proſecute, purſue and defend in all Courts " and Places before whatſoever Judge or Judges " competent, all and ſundry Actions, Cauſes, " Proceſſes and Pleas of what kind and nature ſo- " ever the ſame be, and all and ſundry other Mat- " ters and Things, to do in as full and ample " form and manner as any others Our Subjects of " Our Realm of *Great Britain*, or any other So- " ciety, Corportion or Body Politick, within the " ſaid Realm can do in any ſort: And Grant and " Allow that the foreſaid Society ſhall and may " have a Common Seal; and that it ſhall be law-

full

" ful for them and their Succeſſors to change,
" break, alter and make new the ſaid Seal at their
" pleaſure: And We Grant unto the foreſaid So-
" ciety at their Quarterly Meetings in all time
" coming, and at no other Meetings, full Power
" to make ſuch Rules and Ordinances, and to al-
" ter the ſame, as they ſhall ſee moſt convenient
" and needful for the better Government of the ſaid
" Society, and Management of the Affairs there-
" of, and the more effectual promoting of the
" foreſaid Deſign, and to give ſuch Inſtructions,
" Directions, Orders and Encouragements, to
" theſe they imploy, as they ſhall judge needful
" and reaſonable; And We Ordain the ſame to
" be obſerv'd by all concerned under the Penal-
" ties therein Impoſed and Enacted, providing al-
" ways the ſaid Rules, Ordinances, Inſtructions
" and Directions, be agreeable, and no ways con-
" trary to the Laws and Conſtitutions of *Scot-*
" *land* in Church and State preſently in Force:
" And We judging it of great Import, toward the
" right carrying on of this ſo Chriſtian and Reli-
" gious a Work, that ſuch as ſhall be imployed
" upon this Fund, as Teachers in any Capacity,
" be Men of Piety, Loyalty, Prudence, Gravity,
" competent Knowledge and Literature, and o-
" ther Chriſtian and Neceſſary Qualifications,
" ſuited to their reſpective Stations, do therefore
" peremptorily require and enjoin the ſeveral
" Presbyteries, within whoſe Bounds ſuch Per-
" ſons have for the moſt part had their ordinary
" Reſidence, and other ſuperior Judicaturies of
" the Church of *Scotland*, to make exact Inquiry
" into their manner of Life and Converſation,
" and ſtrictly to try and examine their other Qua-
" lifications above expreſt, as the foreſaid Laws
" and Conſtitutions of *Scotland* do preſcribe, be-

" fore they be enter'd to ſuch a Work. And We
" will and command that none be Imployed in
" theſe Capacities by this Society, upon the Fund
" above-mentioned, but ſuch who being ſo try'd
" and examined ſhall be certified and atteſted to
" them by the foreſaid Church Judicatories. And
" farther, We grant Power to the ſaid Society,
" that upon the Death of any of their Number,
" or of their Preſident, Treaſurer, Secretary, or
" other Officers or Servants, or upon their mal-
" verſing, or not attending in their reſpective Sta-
" tions, and their removal upon theſe or any
" other juſt and neceſſary Accounts, in either of
" theſe Caſes the General Meeting may chuſe o-
" thers to ſucceed, and alſo impoſe and exact
" Fines, not exceeding Ten Pounds Sterling for
" Malverſation, beſides Damages to the Society
" and others concerned, and Ten Shillings Ster-
" ling for each Abſence from their Stations, with-
" out a relevant Excuſe, of which the ſaid Socie-
" ty are to be judges. And We Ordain and Ap-
" point that the Books of the ſaid Society be pa-
" tent and open, that all and every one of the
" Subſcribers, their Heirs and Succeſſors, may
" have acceſs to ſee what Sums of Money are
" received by the Society from time to time, and
" how the ſame have been laid out by Vertue of
" theſe Preſents, or any Authority hereby given,
" and to underſtand the Management and Diſpo-
" ſition of the Revenues of the ſaid Society, and
" be ſatisfied with the ſame; and in caſe of miſ-
" application, any of the ſaid Subſcribers, or
" their aforeſaids, are hereby allowed and im-
" powered to purſue and proſecute theſe guilty
" of the ſame, before any Judge or Judges com-
" petent. It is always hereby provided and de-
" clared, that it ſhall not be Lawful to the ſaid

" So-

" Society, or Managers, to diminiſh the Capital
" Stock that is or ſhall be ſubſcribed for, or morti-
" fied, but only to apply the Rents, Annual
" Rents, Profits and Emoluments, ariſing from
" the ſame, without Prejudice to them, to uplift
" and imploy the Sums to be raiſed from the Sub-
" ſcribers, as ſhall be found requiſite. And We
" do hereby Will, Command and Require, all
" Magiſtrates, Judges and Officers of the Law,
" within our Dominions, and others our good
" Subjects in their reſpective Stations, to give all
" proper and needful Aſſiſtance and Encourage-
" ment to the ſaid Society, and theſe Imployed
" and Intruſted by them in all Matters and Cau-
" ſes tending to the Furtherance of this pious De-
" ſign, and that at all Times and upon all Occa-
" ſions when required thereto, as they will be
" anſwerable to us. And laſtly, We Declare and
" Ordain, that theſe our Letters Patent and
" Charter, or any authentick Extract thereof,
" ſhall be good, firm, valid and effectual in Law,
" according to Our Royal Intentions herein ex-
" preſt, to all Intents and Purpoſes: And Im-
" power the Lord Preſident of the Seſſion in *Scot-*
" *land*, to cauſe timeous Intimation to be given
" to the Members of the ſaid Society, to conveen
" the firſt *Thurſday* of *January*, *March*, *June*,
" or *November*, that ſhall be Thirty Days after the
" Date hereof, at *Edinburgh* in the ſaid Town-
" Hall, or where he ſhall think moſt convenient
" in that City, at Three of the Clock in the Af-
" ternoon: And the ſaid Society are hereby Im-
" power'd to cauſe publick Notifications to be
" made of this Charter, and the Power hereby
" granted, with what they do upon the ſame
" from time to time, in ſuch manner as they ſhall
" think moſt conducive to the Furtherance of the

" ſaid Deſign. In Teſtimony whereof We have " Ordained our Seal, appointed by the Treaty " of Union to be kept and uſed in place of the " Great Seal of *Scotland*, to be hereto appended " at Our Court of St. *James's*, the Twenty-fifth " Day of *May*, 1709 Years, and of Our Reign " the Eighth Year. By Warrant Superſigned by " Our Sovereign Lady the Queen, written to the " Great Seal, and Regiſter'd the Ninth Day of " *July*, 1709, *ſic ſubſcribitur* Ron. Campbell, Dep. " Sealed at *Edinburgh* the Fourteenth Day of *July*, " 1709, *ſic ſubſcribitur* Ro. Campbell.

From this Patent the Reader may ſee the Care that is taken to ſecure what Money the Society is intruſted with, ſo as the Ends for which it is given may be fully anſwered.

A Nomination according to the Letters Patent, was made by the Lords of Seſſion upon the Ninth *July* 1709 Years, of 82 Perſons out of the Contributors, whereof Nine were of the Nobility. The Letters Patent, and Nomination were printed, and publiſhed, that all Concerned might have Acceſs to know the ſame, and Letters with Copies of the Patent ſent to all the Elected Members of the Society, deſiring them to attend in a general Meeting of the Society upon the Third of *November* that Year; at which Time, being their firſt general Meeting, there were Fifty Eight Members preſent, whereof Five Peers, and Thirteen Lords of Seſſion, They elected the Right honourable Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *North-Berwick*, Lord Preſident of the Seſſion, to be their Preceſs, Sir *Hugh Cunningham* late Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, their Treaſurer; and Mr. *John Dundas* of *Philpſtoun* Advocate, their Secretary; as alſo Mr. *Robert Alexander* one of the principal Clerks of Seſſion, Mr. *William Brodie* Advocate, *Adam Brown* thereafter

after Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, *John Campbel* preſent Lord Provoſt there, Mr. *William Carſtairs* then Principal of the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *Alexander Dundas* Doctor of Medicine, Collonel *John Erskine* of *Carnock*, Mr. *James Gellie* Advocate, Mr. *James Hamilton* of *Pancaitland*, and Sir *Walter Pringle* now two of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice, Mr. *William Law* Regent in the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *Alexander M'cleod* Advocate, Mr. *Neil M'vicar* Miniſter at *Weſt-Kirk*, Mr. *Walter Stewart* Advocate, and Mr. *William Wiſhart* now Principal of the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, Fifteen of the Members of the Society for their Committee, and *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, was Elected Clerk and all of them gave their Oaths to be faithful in their reſpective Truſts.

This Meeting did next unanimouſly agree upon an Adreſs of Thanks to Her then Majeſty Queen *ANNE* for their Patent, which Addreſs was graciouſly received.

Upon His Majeſty King *GEORGE*'s happy Acceſſion to the Throne, the Society did very early agree upon a moſt loyal Addreſs, which was likewiſe graciouſly received by His Majeſty.

The Society chuſed for their Seal, an Hand holding out an open Bible, with theſe Words writen upon it, The holy Bible, and this Inſcription about it, *Poſt tenebras lux.*

The Number of the Society is fixed to one Hundred and Ten reſiding in *Scotland*: Out of the Contributors. The firſt Nomination was made according to the Letters Patent by the Lords of Seſſion, and Elections ſince are made by Billoting at the Quarterly General Meetings of the Society, no Perſon is Elected to ſupply a Vacancy, until his Name has been continued upon the Table, at

leaſt a Quarter of a Year, after he is propoſed, and none can be choſen Members of the Society, but Donors; and care is taken, that ſuch as are propoſed and choſen, be ſuch as their is Ground to judge are zealouſly concerned in this good Work, and have given ſome Evidences thereof, and who are zealous for the Proteſtant Religion, and loyal to His Majeſty King *GEORGE*, and are for the Proteſtant Succeſſion in his Royal Family, without regard to other ſmaller Differences. The Society at preſent conſiſts of the Perſons following.

LIST of the Members of the Society in Scotland, *for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge*, April 1720. *Ranked thus, firſt the Nobility Members, then ſuch as are alive of the firſt Nomination ſet down according to the order of the Alphabet, and ſuch as have been admitted ſince, conform to the Time of their Election.*

JOHN *Duke of* Athol.
John *Duke of* Roxburgh.
William *Marquis of* Lothian.
David *Earl of* Buchan.
Thomas *Earl of* Haddingtoun.
James *Earl of* Findlater.
David *Earl of* Glaſgow.
Charles *Earl of* Hoptoun.
Archibald *Earl of* Iſlay.
Alexander *Lord* Polworth.
Mr. William Brodie *Advocate.*
Mr. John Brown *Miniſter at* Abercorn.
Mr. Tho. Blackwall *Princip. of the Coll. at* Aberdeen.
Mr. Robert Baillie *Miniſter at* Inverneſs.
William Brown *of* Dalgoury.
Adam Cockburn *of* Ormiſtoun, *Lord Juſtice Clerk.*
John Campbel *Lord Provoſt of* Edinburgh.

Sir

Sir James Campbel *of* Aberuchill *Baronet.*
Mr. Patrick Cuming *Miniſter at* Ormiſtoun.
Mr. John Currie *Miniſter at* Haddingtoun.
Sir Hu. Dalrymple *of* North-Berwick, *Lord Preſident*
Sir Da. Dalrymple *of* Hailles, *His Majeſty's Advocate.*
John Duncan *Merchant.*
Robert Dundas *of* Arniſtoun, *Lord of Seſſion.*
Mr. John Dundas *of* Philpſtoun *Advocate, Secretary.*
Doctor Alexander Dundas *His Majeſty's Phyſician.*
Mr. James Erskine *of* Grange, *Lord of Seſſion.*
Collonel John Erskine *of* Carnock.
Sir Gilbert Eliot *of* Stobs, *Baronet.*
Mr. John Flint *Miniſter at* Edinburgh.
Sir Francis Grant *of* Cullen, *Lord of Seſſion.*
John Gordon *late Provoſt of* Aberdeen.
James Hamilton *of* Pancaitland, *Lord of Seſſion.*
Mr. James Hart *Miniſter at* Edinburgh.
Mr. Robert Horſeburgh *Miniſter at* Salt-Preſtoun.
Sir Patrick Johnſtoun *late Lord Provoſt of* Edinb-
Rob. Inglis *Gold-Smith, late Deacon-Conveener there.*
Sir John Lawder *of* Fountainhall, *Lord of Seſſion.*
Mr. William Law *Regent in* Edinburgh *Univerſity.*
Sir John Maxwell *of* Pollock, *Lord of Seſſion.*
Mr. Frances Montgomery *of* Giffan.
Mr. Alexander M'leod *Advocate.*
Mr. John Matheſon *Miniſter at* Edinburgh.
Mr. William M'Vicar *Miniſter at* Weſt-Kirk.
Mr. John M'clarin *Miniſter at* Edinburgh.
Sir Alexander Ogilvy *of* Forglen *Lord of Seſſion.*
Sir Walter Pringle *of* Newhall, *Lord of Seſſion.*
Mr. Robert Pringle *Advocate.*
Sir Robert Sinclair *of* Longformacus.
Mr. John Stirling *Principal of* Glaſgow-*Univerſity.*
Mr. Walter Stewart *Advocate.*
Mr. Samuel Semple *Miniſter at* Libertoun.
Nicol Spence *Agent for the Church of* Scotland.
Mr. George Turnbul *Miniſter at* Tyningham.

George Thomſon *of* Portletham.
Mr. William Vetch *Miniſter at* Drumfries.
Mr. Will. Wiſhart *Principal of* Edinb. *Univerſity.*
Will. Wardrop *Dyer, late Deacon Conveener in* Edinb.
Mr. Robert Hepburn *Writer to his Majeſty's Signet.*
Sir James Juſtice *one of the Principal Clerks of Seſſion.*
Collonel William Maxwel *of* Candoneſs.
Mr. William Mitchel *one of His Majeſty's Chaplains.*
Sir James Stewart *of* Goodtrees *Baronet, Advocate.*
George Watſon *Merchant, Treaſurer to the Society.*
Collin Campbel *of* Blythſwood.
Hugh Montgomery *of* Hartfield.
John Graham *of Dougalſtoun.*
Daniel Campbel *of* Shawfield.
Sir Geo. Warrender *of* Lochend, *late L. Prov. of* Ed.
Sir William Calderwood *of* Polton, *Lord of Seſſion.*
Mr. David Erskine *of* Dun, *Lord of Seſſion.*
Mr. William Hamilton *His Majeſty's Almoner.*
Sir James M'kenzie *of* Royſton, *Lord of Seſſion.*
Robert Tod, *late Town Treaſurer of* Edinburgh.
Mr. Alex. Abercrombie *of* Tillybody *Advocate.*
David Spence *Secretary to the Bank of* Scotland.
Mr. Gilbert Burnet *Commiſſioner of Exciſe.*
Thomas Dundas *late Baillie of* Edinburgh.
Sir John Haliburton *Advocate.*
Dr. John Riddel *Phyſician in* Edinburgh.
John Knox *Chyrurgion there.*
Mr. James Grierſon *Miniſter at* Edinburgh.
Coll. Jo. Blacader *Deputy Gover. of* Stirling *Caſtle.*
Will. Hutchiſon *late Dean of Gild of* Edinburgh.
Mr. James Baillie *Writer to His Majeſty's Signet.*
Mr. William Miller *Miniſter at* Edinburgh.
Ja. Young *of* Killicanty, *Treaſurer of* Heriot's *Hoſpital.*
Major James Aikman.
Mr. Mathew Reid *Miniſter at* North-Berwick.
Will. Livingſton *late Deacon Conveener of* Edinb.
George Drummond *Treaſurer of* Edinburgh.

John

John Dundas *Writer to His Majeſty's Signet.*
James Nimmo *Merchant in* Edinburgh.
Mr. Robert Sandilands *Miniſter at* Edinburgh.
Mr. Patrick Campbel *of* Monee *Advocate.*
Sir William Menzies *of* Gladſtaines.
Mr. Thomas Paterſon *Miniſter at* Weſt-Kirk.
Sir James Smallet *of* Bonhil.
Mr. James Walker *Miniſter at* Canongate.
Mr. Adam Wat *of* Roſshill, *Advocate.*
William Neilſon *late Lord Provoſt of* Edinburgh.
John Wightman *late Dean of Gild there.*
Mr. Alexander Nisbet *Chyrurgion* there.
Sir John Clark *of* Pennycook *Baronet.*
Charles Hope *late Baillie in* Edinburgh.
Andrew Gardner *Merchant there.*
Lord William Hay.
Jo. Smith *Lord chief Baron of his Majeſty's Exchequer,*
Mr. Robert Dundas *Advocate, His Majeſty's Solicitor,*
Lord Charles Ker, *Director of His Majeſty's Chancery*
Mr. Duncan Forbes *Advocate.*
Mr. Robert Alexander *of* Blackhouſe.
Alexander Finlayſon *Town Clerk of* Glaſgow.
Mr. James Bannatyne *Miniſter at* Edinburgh.
Mr. Alexander Mitchel *Writer to His Majeſty's Signet.*

Theſe are beſides diverſe Correſpondent Members reſiding in *England, Scotland,* and *Ireland.*

The Committee of 15 choſen Yearly out of the Members of the Society, muſt meet at leſt once a Month, and have a fixed Hour and Place of Meeting, and frequently they meet once a Week, yea oftner as need requires, ſometimes twice a Day: This Committee does negotiate the moſt part of the Buſineſs of the Society, by executing their Orders, receiving their Letters, ſending Anſwers, managing their Correſpondence, giving Commiſſions and Directions to School-Maſters, and doing whatever elſe is referred to them, by the general Meet-

Meeting of the Society, to whom they are alwiſe accountable, and accordingly every Quarter of a Year, they give in their Reports to the general Meeting in Writing, who either do approve or alter, or Cenſure their Proceedings as they find Cauſe. The Committee does alſo acquaint the Society with any new Donations, or the Payments of Money formerly ſubſcribed for. And at the yearly Election of the Members of this Committee, ſome of the Members the preceeding Year, are uſually continued, for the better Information of the new Ones; and the Members of this Committee are ſuch as have their Reſidence for ordinar in *Edinburgh*, and are hearty in the Work; and this Committee to make their Buſineſs to be the more eaſily and quickly diſpatched, do make particular References to ſome of their Number, to negotiate their Orders, in the Intervals of their Meetings, and from time to time, call them to an Account.

The Society conſidering that diverſe Emergents may fall out in the Intervals, betwixt their ſtated general Meetings, which may be of ſuch Importance, that their Committee could not take upon them, to determine therein, without the Direction of the general Meeting, have therefore Impowered their Committee to call a general Meeting npon ſix Days Advertiſement to conſider ſuch Affairs: But theſe *pro re nata* Meetings muſt be at leſt double the uſual *Quorum* of the general Meeting.

The Treaſurers Accompts being examined by the Society's Comptroller and Accomptant, and reported to the Committee; is thereafter laid before the general Meeting the firſt *Thurſday* of *January* yearly, with the Committee's Opinion thereupon, and approven or diſapproven, as they

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ſee Cauſe, and every Year the Treaſurer renews his Bond and Cautionery, and all the Society's Moneys muſt come into their Treaſurers Hand, and be given out again by him, and ſtated regularly in his Books, and no Member meddles otherways therewith.

The whole Actings and Proceedings of the general Meeting, and Committee are duely Recorded in different Regiſters, and each Meetings Proceedings ſubſcribed by the Preceſs for the Time and Secretary, and likewiſe the Treaſurers Acccompts, Charge and Diſcharge, and are all Patent to ſuch Contributers as pleaſe to look unto the ſame.

James Nimmo Merchant in *Edinburgh*, and *David Spence* Secretary to the Bank, are Comptrollers and Accomptants to the Society; and ſince the Deceaſe of Sir *Hugh Cunningham*, *George Watſon* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, has been from Year to Year Elected Treaſurer.

The Stock of the Society is preſerved intire, and only the Annualrents or Intereſt imployed, and ſo careful has the Society been this way, that when any Thing was done for the Society *gratis*, the uſual Dues hath been taken out of the Annual Rents and added to the Stock, and when the Gentlemen who have thus ſerved the Society *gratis*, have deſired it, they have had as much added to their Donations as their Dues would have extended to, had they taken as much from the Society as from other Perſons. All that is given is marked down. The The Names of the particular Perſons who give, and the Sums which they give, are all Regiſter'd in an Alphabetical Order in a large Book kept for that Purpoſe, and is always patent to thoſe who pleaſe to look into it: And Matters being thus

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ſo managed, it is ſcarce poſſible the Money given to the Society, can be miſapplied, unleſs all the Members and Donors conſpire to ruin the Society and defeat the Deſign of its Election, which is not ſuppoſable.

The Money got in, is carefully laid out upon good Security; the Bonds and Evidences for the ſame are kept in a Chiſt provided for the Uſe, under three Locks; one of the Keys the Treaſurer is intruſted with, and the other two are kept by two Members of the Committee. The Treaſurer receives from Time to Time the Intereſt, and Imploys the ſame for paying the School-Maſters Salaries, buying Books, *&c.* as directed by the General Meeting or Committee. Beſides this Chiſt, the Treaſurer is obliged for the Societies further Security, to give Bond and find Surety, and he and all the Members of the Society and Committee, as well as the Secretaries, ſerve *gratis*.

The Reports, Letters, Liſts of Schollars, and other Papers which concern every School are kept in a Preſs, each Schools Papers by themſelves, in order to the more eaſy finding them out, when called for, and one imployed for filling up the Regiſters, and keeping their Papers and Books in Order.

The Stock of the Society in *January* 1720, at laſt ſtating the Societies Accompts was found to be 8168 *lib. ſterl.* laid out upon good Security, beſides which there are conſiderable Sums ſubſcribed for, but not yet paid in, as alſo large Donations, ſome burdened with Liferents.

The Society and their Committee, for the better Security of their Stock, are at great pains to find out a proper Purchaſe of Land, and though they have not yet found any that anſwers their Deſign, they ſtill continue their Endeavours: And

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the Societies Affairs hath been ſo carefully managed; that none of the Money lent by them, is yet loſt, though the ſame hath been often raiſed, and been and ſtill is in many Hands.

Great care is taken for the right Improvement of the yearly Revenue of the Societies Stock, and that the Perſons imployed as School-Maſters be duely Qualified: And in Order to this, a Correſpondence is kept with Miniſters and Presbyteries, and the Society have agreed upon the Formula of the Certificate which they require of, ſuch as they imploy as School-Maſters. The Tenor whereof follows. At —— the —— Day of——.

'The Presbytery ——— having conſidered the 'Deſire of the Society in *Scotland*, for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, concerning fit Perſons to be imployed by them, for teaching in a 'School. And *A. B.* being propoſed for that End, 'and they being ſatisfied, as to his Piety, Loyalty, Prudence and Gravity, he being well known 'to them, they did examine and try him as to 'his Knowledge, in the Principles of the Reformed Proteſtant Religion, as to his Writing, Arithmetick, and other Chriſtian and neceſſary 'Qualifications ſuited to that Station, and he 'having given them full Satisfaction in all the above Particulars, and judging him a Perſon 'well affected to the preſent Government in 'Church and State, and qualified for ſerving the 'Deſign of the Society in keeping a School, for 'teaching to Read, alſo Writing, Arithmetick, 'and for inſtructing People in the Principles of 'the Chriſtian Reformed Proteſtant Religion. 'The foreſaid Presbytery did, and hereby do recommend him to the ſaid Society, and their Committee to be imployed and encouraged by them 'in that Capacity. Theſe Preſents in the Name,

and

'and by Appointment of the foreſaid Presbitery, 'are ſubſcribed by *J. M.* Mod. *N. S.* Clerk.

The Perſon thus recommended, does for ordinary appear himſelf, before the Committee, and then ſome of their Number take further Trial of his Writing and Arithmetick: Or if he cannot attend the Committee, the Presbitery uſes to ſend a Specimen of his Writing and Arithmetick ſealled in a Letter, and when the Society are fully ſatisfied in this Matter, they give a Commiſſion as follows.

The Society (or Committee of the Society) in Scotland, *for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, finding that the General Meeting of the ſaid Society have reſolv'd and agreed that a Charity-School be ſet up at* ——— *for the benefit of the Country that lyes about that Place: And conſidering that* ——— *is well recommended as a Perſon qualified for teaching ſuch a School, and particularly that the Presbytery of* ——— *within whoſe Bounds the ſaid* ——— *has for the moſt part had his ordinary Reſidence, have after exact Inquiry into his manner of Life and Converſation, and after ſtrict Trial and Examination of his other Qualifications, certified and atteſted him to be a Man of Piety, Loyalty, Prudence, Gravity, competent Knowledge and Literature, and to be endued with other Chriſtian Qualifications, ſuited to that Station: And the Society (or Committee) having themſelves taken ſufficient Proof of his Writing and Arithmetick, and finding themſelves ſufficiently Impower'd to the effect under-written: They, by the Tenor hereof, do nominate, commiſſionate and appoint the ſaid* ——— *to be School-Maſter and Teacher of the Charity School now forthwith to be ſet up in* ———, *or whatever other Place the ſame may happen to be tranſported to, within the Bounds of the ſaid Country at the Pleaſure of the Society, hereby authorizing and requiring him, with*

with all Faithfulneſs and Diligence, to apply himſelf to teach all Perſons whatſoever who ſhall attend his School to read perfectly, eſpecially the Holy Scriptures, and other good and pious Books, as alſo to teach Writing, Arithmetick, and ſuch like Degrees of Knowledge in the foreſaid Country of ———, *and to Catechize and inſtruct them in the Principles of the Chriſtian Reform'd Proteſtant Religion, and that* gratis, *without demanding or requiring any Fee, Acknowledgement or Gratuity for his Pains from any Perſon whatſoever: And they do hereby enjoin and require the ſaid* ———, *that in executing his ſaid Office, and performing the Duties Incumbent to him in his Station as School-Maſter, he do ſtrictly obſerve and exactly walk conform to the Rules and Directions already agreed to, and eſtabliſhed by the Society, a Copy whereof is herewith delivered to him, and ſuch other Rules and Orders as ſhall hereafter be eſtabliſhed and laid down by them from time to time, for the right Manageing and Government of their Charity-Schools: And foraſmuch as the Society has allowed to the School-Maſter of the ſaid Place an yearly Salary of* ——— *Money for his Maintenance and Encouragement, therefore the general Meeting (or Committee) does hereby require and appoint the Treaſurer of the Society for the time being, and his Succeſſors in that Office to make Payment of the ſaid Sum to the ſaid* ——— *during his Continuance as School-Maſter in the ſaid Country, and that Half-yearly or Quarterly as he ſhall require the ſame: And appoints the Sum of* ——— *Money aforeſaid as the firſt Quarters Payment current from the Term of* ——— *to the Term of* ——— *next to come, to be delivered to him with his Commiſſion; and appoints him before he enter to the exerciſe of his ſaid Office, to qualify himſelf as the Laws and Conſtitutions of* Scotland, *in Church and State, do require; And forthwith thereafter to repair to his Charge, and enter*

per to the Exercise of his Office, and therein continue until this Commission be recalled by the Society in Scotland *for propagating Christian Knowledge, or their Committee: By whose Warrant (and by the Appointment of their Committee authorized to that effect) these Presents are given, and the common Seal of the said Society is affixed thereto at ——— the ——— Day of ———*

H. D. *Preses.* I D. *Sec. So.*

Besides this Commission, the Society have agreed upon some further Directions, for the better carrying on of their Design, which are mentioned in the above Commission, and are as follows.

Rules and Orders for the Charity Schools erected by the Society in Scotland *for propagating Christian Knowledge.*

1. THAT none shall be imployed by the Society to teach these Schools but Persons of Piety, Loyalty, Prudence, Gravity, competent Knowledge and Literature, and who having been tried and examined by the Presbytery of the Bounds in which they usually reside, shall be recommended by them to the Society as duly qualified for that Work.

2. The Masters of these Schools are to be careful to train up those that shall be under their Charge, in the Knowledge of God, and the Principles of the Christian Reform'd Religion; and for that End are to teach them the Shorter Catechism of this Church, beginning with such Questions of the Catechism as are most easily understood, and are of greatest Necessity, and from these going on to the rest, and explaining them by the Help of some good Exposition: And that the Principles and Duties of Christianity, contained in

in the Catechiſm, may be the better underſtood and more eaſily remembred by the Scholars, the School-Maſters are to Catechiſe them, at leaſt, twice a Week: And it's hoped the Miniſters of the ſeveral Pariſhes, where theſe Schools ſhall be erected, will give their Aſſiſtance for the better Inſtruction of the Scholars, by Catechiſing them once a Month.

3. The Maſters of theſe Schools are to take particular Care of the Manners and Behaviour of their Scholars, and by rheir own Example, as well as Inſtructions, recommend to them the ſeveral Parts and Duties of a ſober and Religious Converſation; and they are, by all proper Methods, to diſcourage and correct the Beginnings of Vice, and particularly Lying, Swearing, Curſing, prophaning the Lord's Day, Stealing, *&c.* at the ſame time minding them of ſuch Parts of the holy Scripture and Catechiſm, where ſuch Things are mentioned as forbidden by God, and the contrary Duties commanded, that ſo they may the better remember and underſtand the Uſe of the holy Scripture and the Catechiſms, and learn to govern their Life by them.

4. The Maſters ſhall pray Morning and Evening in the School, and endeavour to inſtruct and engage the Schollars to pray in private, at leaſt Morning and Evening, and to beg a Bleſſing before, and to give God Thanks after Meat.

5. The Maſters ſhall not only frequent the Publick Worſhip themſelves on the Lord's Day, and other Occaſions, but ſhall alſo take Care that their Scholars do the ſame; and that they behave themſelves in the Church with due Attention and Reverence: And to oblige them to the greater Attention, they ſhall, either on the Lord's Day in the Evening, or Monday Morning, call them to an Account of what they remember of the Le-

ćture and Sermons which they have heard; and when the Schools are at ſuch a diſtance from the Church, as that the Schollars cannot, in bad Weather, attend the Publick Worſhip, then the Maſter ſhall ſpend a conſiderable part of the Lord's Day, both Morning and Afternoon, with his Scholars in Praying, ſinging Pſalms, reading the holy Scriptures and catechiſing, that ſo that holy Day may not be prophaned, but may be ſpent as uſefully as can be in ſuch Circumſtances.

6. The Maſters are conſtantly to attend their proper Buſineſs in the Schools, during the Hours appointed for Teaching, namely, from Seven to Eleven in the Morning, and from One to Five in the Evening, for Eight Months in the Year; *viz.* from the firſt of *February* to the firſt of *October*; and for the other Four Months, from Eight or Nine in the Morning to Twelve, and from One to Three or Four in the Evening: And if theſe Diets be found inconvenient, the School-Maſter may, with the Advice and Conſent of the Miniſter of the Pariſh, make ſuch Alterations therein as may be found neceſſary; and he ſhall with the firſt Opportunity acquaint the Society, or their Committee, with theſe Alterations, and the Reaſons of them, that they may give ſuch Directions therein as they ſhall think fit.

7. The Maſters are to teach their Scholars to read; and for that end, ſhall teach them the true ſpelling of Words, and diſtinction of Syllables, with the Points and Stops; which is neceſſary to right Reading, and ſerve to make them more mindful of what they read: And after they are taught to read, the Maſters are to make them read every Day ſome Portion of the holy Scripture, eſpecially ſuch Parts of it as are moſt ſuited to their Capacities.

8. That as ſoon as they can Read competently

ly well, the Maſter ſhall teach them to write a fair legible Hand, and alſo inſtruct them in the Elements and moſt neceſſary Rules of Arithmetick, that they may be thereby render'd more Uſeful in their ſeveral Stations in the World, but not to teach any Latin or Iriſh.

9. Seeing the School-Maſters have Salaries allowed them, that they may be enabled to teach all that come to them *gratis*, they are not to demand any thing of their Schollars: But if Gentlemen, or others that are in plentiful Circumſtances, think fit to ſend their Children to theſe Schools, and do freely offer to pay for their Education, then the Maſters are not forbid to accept of what they give.

10. That the School-Maſters take the moſt proper Methods for obliging their Scholars to attend at the Hours appointed for Teaching; particularly, they are to uſe their Intereſt with the Parents of the Children, or others, whoſe Care they are under, that they may not ſuffer them to be abſent at ſuch Hours; and they are to call over the Names of their Scholars every Morning and Afternoon, to know whether they come conſtantly at School Hours; and if any be miſſing, to mark their Names, with a Note for *Tarde*, and another for *Abſent* in Quarterly Bills; wherein alſo any groſs Faults the Scholars ſhall be guilty of, are to be mark'd, and laid before the Viſitors, in order to their Correction or Expulſion.

11, For the Encouragement of the Scholars that are taught *gratis* in theſe Schools, the Society deſigns to give a new Bible to every one of them, as ſoon as its atteſted by the Viſitors that they can read the Bible perfectly: And the Society farther intend, if their Fund increaſes, as it's hop'd it will, to give ſome farther *Præmiums* to ſuch of the Scholars as ſhall recommend themſelves

ſelves to the Viſitors by a more than ordinary Proficiency in Learning, and by a ſober and diſcreet Converſation: And the Society will give an Allowance to ſome of the Scholars that are qualified to encourage them to aſſiſt the School-Maſter, where the Schools are numerous, in teaching the other Scholars; that ſo, after having ſpent ſome Time in Teaching under the Inſpection of a School-Maſter, they may be fitted to teach Schools themſelves; or at leaſt may be uſefully imployed, when they return Home, in inſtructing their Friends and Neighbours; and by this means the Knowledge of God, and of the true Religion, may be diffuſed in the Places to which they belong.

12. It is expected that the School-Maſters will, as often as they can, ſpend ſome of the Time that they are not obliged to beſtow on their Scholars, in Catechiſing and Inſtructing the poor People in their Neighbourhood (who are too old to come to School) in the Principles of the Chriſtian Reformed Religion.

13. Becauſe the Members of the Society cannot themſelves overſee thoſe Charity-Schools which are in Places ſo remote, they are obliged to put them under the Inſpection, not only of the Miniſters of the ſeveral Pariſhes, but alſo of the Presbyteries of the Bounds in which they are or ſhall happen to be: And they earneſtly recommend it to the Presbyteries, that they would by themſelves, or ſome of their own Number appointed for that purpoſe, viſit thoſe Schools once a Quarter, and inquire into the Behaviour both of the Maſters and Scholars; and how theſe Rules and Orders are obſerved, and try the Proficiency of the Schollars, and examine the above-mentioned Quarterly Bills, and proceed againſt ſuch as are found guilty of any groſs Faults as they ſee fit, and acquaint the Society, or their Committee

mittee, from time to time, with the ſtate of thoſe Schools, and what farther Regulations they judge may be neceſſary for them.

14. The Society does not deſign ſo to fix thoſe Charity-Schools in the Places where they are or may be erected, as that they may not be removed to other Places, where they may be found more uſeful; but reſerves a Power to themſelves, as they ſee cauſe to remove them: And as to this Matter, they will always be ready to conſider ſuch Advices and Recommendations as they ſhall receive from the ſeveral Presbyteries of the Highlands and Iſles, for whom theſe Schools are chiefly deſigned; and upon any ſuch Repreſentation they will give ſuch Directions as ſhall be found neceſſary.

Every School-Maſter, Miniſter of the Pariſh, and Presbytery of the Bounds where the Societies Schools are erected, get a Copy of theſe Rules ſent to them.

That the benefit of the Society's Schools may be the more extenſive, the Maſters are reſtricted to the teaching of Reading, Writing, Arithmetick, the Churches ſhorter and larger Catechiſms, Confeſſion of Faith and Pſalmody, and ſome pious little Books. By this means the Scholars are not long detained, and the Schools can be more frequently removed, than if other Parts of Learning were taught: And the Society's School-Maſters are diſcharged to teach Latine or Iriſh, or to be imployed in any other Buſineſs to divert them from attending the School; and when any of them happen to be negligent, or to malverſe, or fall under Scandal, he is thereupon diſcharged the Societies Service, and when they are not acceptable to the Country where they are ſettled, they are removed to ſome other Place.

After this ſhort Account of the Conſtitution of the Society, and their Way of Management, 'tis proper to acquaint the Reader with the moſt con-

ſiderable Things they have done ſince their firſt Erection, and its Succeſs.

The Society at firſt took under Conſideration the Deſign of their Erection; and that the ſame might be managed to the beſt Advantage, they gave publick Advertiſements, and wrote Letters to the ſeveral Presbyteries of *Scotland*, and to the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge in *England*, that ſo they might have all poſſible Aſſiſtance from others, and ſuch Information as could be had, both of the Way how to order their Schools, and of the Places where to fix them, wrote alſo to the Juſtices of the Peace, and Sheriffs of Shires, and Magiſtrates of Burghs for their Concurrence.

The firſt Propoſal which the Society had under Conſideration, was in regard that it could not be thought, Popiſh Parents would willingly ſend their Children to thoſe Schools where they are to be taught the Bible and the Catechiſm, which would diſappoint one great Deſign the Subſcribers had in view, that therefore little Hoſpitals ſhould be erected, where the Children of Popiſh Parents ſhould be taken in and provided for with all Neceſſaries while at School: But this was found too great an Expence for the Society's ſmall Stock; therefore they fixed upon the Method of ſending School-Maſters, providing them with Houſes for Lodging and Schools, and with ſuch Books as the Scholars, unable to purchaſe for themſelves, ſtand in need of. They generally give their School-Maſters ſixteen Pound thirteen Shillings and four Pennies Serling *per Annum*, tho' they have ſome that are ſerved with ſmaller Salaries; the Inhabitants in ſome Places being ſo fond of theſe Schools, that they contribute to the Maſter's Subſiſtance, and ſo eaſe the Society of ſome part of the Burden.

The

The firſt Place where the Society ſettled one of their Schools was in the Iſland of *Hirta*, alias *St. Kilda*; an Iſland at a conſiderable Diſtance from the weſtern Coaſt of *Scotland*, where the Inhabitants were not ſo much as Reformed from Heatheniſm. In *April* 1710, they gave a Commiſſion to *Alexander Buchan*, to be School-Maſter in this Iſland, and he was alſo ordained by the Presbytery of *Edinburgh* to be Miniſter there, the Inhabitants having ſcarce ever heard the Goſpel preach'd before he came among them; his Inſtructions being ſuited both to his Capacity as a Miniſter of the Goſpel, and a School-Maſter.

The Society ſettled Schools alſo at the following Places; *viz.* *Snizort* in the Iſle of *Skye*, *Glenelg* and *Abertarf*, in the Shire of *Inverneſs*, *Garloch* in *Roſs*, *Larg* and *Kildonan* in *Southerland*, *Diurneſs* in *Strathnaver*, *Harray* in the Continent of *Orknay*, *Shapinſhay* another of thoſe Iſles, at *Walls* in *Zetland*, *Tomnavillan* in the Duke of *Gordon's* Country, *Caſtletoun* in *Brae-marr*, *Tombelly* in *Aberdeen* Shire, and at *Glenarchnae*, *Glenlednoch* and *Roſearne* in *Perth* Shire.

But the Society's Schools are now more numerous, and ſettled as follows.

The 1ſt *at* Hirta, *alias* St. Kilda, Mr. Alexander Buchan *Maſter*. 2. *That formerly at* Tombellie, Glenmuick, *now at* Tullik, Aberdeenſhire, Andrew Rule *Maſter*. 3. *At* Harray *in* Orknay, Mr. Alexander Moncrief *Maſter*. 4. Erliſh *vacant*. 5. *That at* Larg, *and thereafter at* Creich, *vacant*. 6. *That at* Duirneſs *and* Kintail, *now at* Ribigill *in* Strathnaver, Will. M'kay *Maſter*. 7. *That at* Glenelg, *Presbytery of* Skye, *vacant*. 8. Abertarf, *Presbytery* Inverneſs, Mr. Alexr. Fraſer *Maſter*. 9. *That formerly at* Walls *in* Zetland, *now at* Tingual, 10. *That formerly at* Caſtletoun *and* Monaltry, *now at* Clachinturn, *Presbytery* Kincardin-o-

niel

niel, Mr. Jo. Young *Maſter.* 11. Glenlivet *Presbytery* Abernethy, Mr. Jo. Forſyth *Maſter.* 12. Shappinſhay *in* North-Iſles, Jo. Guthry *Maſter.* 13 Snizort *in* Skye, *vacant.* 14. Kildonan *in* Sutherland, Geo. Henderſon *Maſter.* 15. *That formerly at* Pollow *or* Garloch *in* Roſs, *vacant,* Jo. Robertſon *Maſter now at* Kilmorack. 16. Lochernſide *in* Comry, Perthſhire Ja. Drummond *Maſter.* 17. Glenlednoch *there, another,* Ja. Drummond *Maſter.* 18. Glenarchna *there,* Tho. Drummond *Maſter.* 19. Tombelly *vacant, its Maſter being now at* Tulick, Aberdeenſhire. 20. Tillichone *in* Eddinkilly, *Presbytery* Forreſſe, Alexr. Stewart *Maſter.* 21. Culpherne *there,* John Calder *Maſter.* 22. Drumoyn *there,* John Anderſon *Maſter.* 23. Tillidivy *there,* Will. Gow *Maſter.* 24. Brae *of* Balquhidder *Presbytery* Dumblain. 25. Strathyre *there,* John Buchanan *Maſter.* 26,. Blair-Athole *or* Strowan, Mr. James Murray *Maſter.* 27. Lochern *there,* James M'allum *Maſter.* 28. Southronalſhey, *now at* Edday *in* North-Iſles, Geo. Charles *Maſter.* 29. Lochaber *or* Kilmally, Mr. Jo. M'bean *Maſter.* 30. *That formerly at* Penymuir *in* Mull, *now at* Torlesk, Mr. Hector M'clean *Maſter.* 31. Creich *or* Ballachraggan *in* Sutherland, *vacant.* 32. Kilmorock *in Synod* Roſs, Ja. Robertſon *Maſter.* 33. Bracklaw *in* Callendar *Presbytery* of Dumblane Jo. Fiſher *Maſter.* 34. Latter *there,* Jo. Drummond *Maſter.* 35. Bridge *of* Turk *there,* Donald M'claren *Maſter.* 36. Annie, *vacant.* 37. North-Ronaldſhey *in* North-Iſles, Magnus Muir *Maſter.* 38. Braccadale *in* Skye, Jo. M'pherſon *Maſter.* 39. Weſtray *in* North-Iſles, Jo. Nicolſon *Maſter.* 40. Evie *and* Rendal *in* Orkney, Ro. Brown *Maſter.* 41. Orphire *there,* Mr. Jo. Davidſon *Maſter.* 42. Laggan *in* Badenoch, Mr. Ja. Johnſton *Maſter.* 43. Tingwall *in* Zetland, Francis Beatie *Maſter.* 44. Firth *in* Orkney, Geo. Loutit *Maſter.* 45. Stenneſs *there,* Duncan Loutit *Maſter.* 46. Milton *of* Innercald *in* Aberdeen-

deenſhire, Mr. Arthur Gregory *Maſter*. 47. Moy *and* Dallaraſſie, Inverneſs-ſhire, *vacant*. 48. Ruthven *in* Bamf-ſhire, Jo. Touch *Maſter*. 49. Gremſey *in* Orkney, Will. Flet *Maſter*. 50. Hoy *there*, Ja. Loutit *Maſter*. 51. Rackwick *there*, John Inkſetter *Maſter*. 52. Tombowie *in* Dumbartonſhire, Neill Campbell *Maſter*. 53. Ardlewig *there*, *vacant*. 54. Coverclet *there*, Geo. Moir *Maſter*. 55. Claſhmore, Will. Crawford *Maſter*. 56. Port *in* Stirlingſhire, Mr. Jo. Orchardſon *Maſter*. 57. Cotterton *in Preſbytery* Forreſs Jo. Gordon *Maſter*. 58. Kintoſach *in* Dyke *there*, John Alves *Maſter*.

In ſome of theſe Places, where the Societies Schools are ſettled, the Pariſhes are above Twenty or Thirty Miles long, and Ten or Twelve broad, and generally they are very large; ſo that it is impoſſible for the Inhabitants, to have frequent Acceſs to their Pariſh-Church, by which they want much of the ordinary Means of Inſtruction; and from thence, in a great meaſure, proceeds their Ignorance, Immorality and Popery.

The Society at the firſt ſettling of any School allows a competent Number of Bibles, New-Teſtaments, Pſalm-Books, Proverbs, Catechiſms, Confeſſions of Faith, Vincent's Explication of the Catechiſm, Mr. *Guthry*'s Trial of a ſaving Intereſt in Chriſt, Books againſt Popery, and many other good and pious Books; Copy Books for writing, Muſick Books containing the common Tunes ſung in the Churches, Arithmetick Books, Paper, and from time to time provide their Schools with more, as Occaſion requires, and allow them to beſtow thoſe Books on ſuch as they find proper Objects, and are not otherwiſe able to provide themſelves with ſuch Books as are neceſſary for their Inſtruction: Yea poor Scholars at other Schools, are at the Deſire of Miniſters and Presbyeries, ſupplied with ſome of the Society's Books:

And

And becauſe furniſhing ſo many Books, with the Carriage of them to Schools, did amount to a very conſiderable Sum yearly, the Society upon a Recommendation of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1715, did obtain a voluntary Collection at all the Church Doors in *Scotland*, which was a great help in this Matter, and kept the Society's Stock intire. School-Maſters are ordered to return Receipts of the Books they get, and to ſend Accounts how they diſpoſe of them, atteſted by the Miniſter.

The Society takes all poſſible Care to provide their Schools, with ſufficient Maſters: They apply to the Univerſities, and from them get Liſts of ſuch young Men educated there, as have the Iriſh Language: They take care alſo to imploy none but ſuch as are ſufficiently recommended for Piety and good Morals, and undoubted Loyalty. Divers of theſe imployed by the Society, are Perſons of ſuch Piety and other Qualifications, that they have ſince that Time, been ordained Miniſters of the Goſpel; and others are imployed as School-Maſters in their Room. And they have Reaſon to acknowledge with Thankfulneſs, the Goodneſs of God in the Succeſs of their Schools, at ſome of which there are above an Hundred Scholars: And at all their Schools, through the bleſſing of God, the Scholars make conſiderable Progreſs: In ſome Places the Society's Scholars are come that length, that not only they read Engliſh diſtinctly, but alſo writ a fair Hand, and are likewiſe learning Arithmetick and Church Muſick, and do repeat the ſhorter Catechiſm publickly in the Church, and many of them can repeat a little Book called the Proteſtants Reſolution, why he will not be a Papiſt.

The Society have lately had Reports, that where their Schools have been ſettled, there is an Emu-

Emulation among the People, who ſhall have their Children beſt taught, and tho' formerly it was ſaid among them, that none ſhould learn Letters but Gentles; yet now they are of another Mind, and ſuch as cannot read are not reſpected: So that Perſons paſt twenty Years, and even married Perſons come to School, Servants Male and Female leave their Service for a Time, in order to attend theſe Schools: Yea, Popiſh Parents have voluntarly given a written Obligation under a Penalty, that if the Society would ſettle a School among them, they would ſend their Children thereto, and ſuffer them to learn the Proteſtant Catechiſm, and come to Church; and ſome of theſe are already come that Length in Reformation, that they will by no means go to hear a Popiſh Prieſt: This ſo galls the Prieſts and other Papiſts, that once and again they have cauſed ſpread falſe Reports, as if all their Children at theſe Schools, when they come to age, are to be taken away by the Covernment, and ſent to the Plantations; which made ſome for a Time to take their Children from the School. Yet now the Prieſts in ſome Corners are loſing their Credit, and in divers Places where Popery and Superſtition did abound, there is an earneſt Deſire among the People after Chriſtian Knowledge.

The Society had a Report from a Presbytery, in theſe Words, "At a Viſitation of the Society's "Schools, they found the Schollars Proficiency "were ſuch, that they were ſurprized and com-"forted with the Progreſs of the young Ones, "and Diligence of the Maſters, that Matters "being upon ſuch a Footing, that Barbarity and "the Iriſh Language in that Place, by their "means, are almoſt rooted out, and the Boys "have made great Progreſs in the Knowledge of "the Principles of our holy Religion.

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The Society oblige the Schoolmaſters to keep Regiſters of the Names of all that enter to their School, the Time thereof, and to mark what Time they leave the ſame, and what Proficiency they make, and Copies of theſe muſt be atteſted by the Miniſter of the Pariſh, or Viſitors of the School, and laid before the Society yearly, with an Account to whom Books were given.

Seeing the Society are not in Caſe to maintain Hoſpitals, they have ordered their Schoolmaſters, to take ſpecial Notice of the poor Scholars who were of more than ordinary Capacity for Learning, and to cauſe the Miniſter of the Pariſh, or Viſitors, to examine them, and report a Liſt of their Names, and thereupon each of theſe poor Scholars are allowed one penny for every Day they attend the School, and as much for the Lord's Day. And ſome Perſons have agreed to aſſiſt the Society in this Matter, and they are the more encouraged to this, that not only are ſome of theſe taught at the Society's Schools, now teaching in private Families, and remote Corners, under the Inſpection and Direction of the Society's Schoolmaſters; but others are admitted to be Maſters of the Society's publick Schools, and have produced Teſtimonials from Presbyteries of their Qualifications for the ſame, after Trial.

When Schoolmaſters have continued for two or three Years in one Place, and taught moſt of the young Ones there, the Society, by the Advice of the Presbytery and Miniſters of the Bounds, and other Correſpondents, do remove the School to ſome other Place, and continue them there till the Number of Scholars do again decreaſe, and then tranſport them either back again, or to ſuch other Places, as it's judged, they may be moſt uſeful.

The Society has many Petitions before them for erecting of new Schools, which they have a great Inclina-

Inclination to comply with, becauſe they are ſufficiently convinced of the need of them: But the ſmallneſs of the Society's Stock will not maintain at preſent any more than thoſe above named.

The Society from Time to Time has applied to the General Aſſembly that the Miniſters of the Church might by their Influence be determined to uſe their utmoſt Diligence for procuring Contributions for ſo pious and noble a Deſign, and the Aſſembly have always readily complied with the Demands of the Society, and declared their Satisfaction with their Management, as appears by the 11th Act General Aſſembly 1710. Act 9th General Aſſembly 1711, Act 5th and 9th, General Aſſembly 1712. Act 9. Gen. Aſſembly 1713. Act 13. Gen. Aſſembly 1714, Act 12. General Aſſembly 1715. Act 4th. General Aſſembly 1716. Act 4th. General Aſſembly 1717, and Act 5th. General Aſſembly 1719 Years.

They have alſo ſettled ſome at *London*, *Briſtol*, *Dublin*, and in *Holland*, as their Correſpondents in thoſe Places; that they may lay out themſelves as much as poſſible to further this good Work.

The firſt Perſon who gave Money to the Society for carrying on this pious and neceſſary Deſign was a Widow Lady of great Quality, whoſe Modeſty forbad us to Name her here; but the Gift is very conſiderable, and ſuch as becomes her eminent Rank and Piety. Several others of the Nobility being highly ſatisfied with the Management of the Society have contributed generouſly, many Gentlemen and Ladies have followed their good Examples. The Miniſters of the eſtabliſh'd Church have been very liberal according to their Ability. Many of the Citizens of *Edinburgh*, *Aberdeen*, *Glaſgow*, *Dumfries*, and other Towns, have contributed handſomely, and even Children and Servants have teſtify'd their good Inclinations

to the Work, by throwing in their Mites, which have been gratefully received. Divers Sums are ſettled for ever upon the Society, the Intereſt of which is to be annually paid after the Deceaſe of the Donor; and ſeveral of our Country-men abroad, and particularly Officers of the Army, with other Friends in *England*, and *Ireland*, have generouſly ſent us Contributions, and all the Names of the Contributors are recorded, and Alphabetically digeſted in a Book which is patent to every one that pleaſeth.

Many pious and charitably diſpoſed Perſons, have been diſcouraged from leaving Money, or making Settlements for the Maintenance of Schools, where they were born or Educated, for the want of truſty Adminiſtrators: But by this Society there is a ſufficient Remedy provided, to prevent ſuch Miſapplications as have been ſo frequently and juſtly complain'd of. So that ſuch charitable Perſons may now ſafely entruſt what they deſign to ſettle under the Management of this Society, who will chearfully, and *gratis*, undertake the Execution of ſuch Truſts, according to the Will of the Donors, and any who pleaſe to give Money, Books, Clothes, Proviſions, or what they can beſt ſpare, may now have an Opportunity to exert their Charity by intruſting it to the Society, which is made up of Perſons of Honour, Probity, and Subſtance, who have already given ſufficient Proofs of their faithful and prudent Management, and ſettled a Correſpondence through the Kingdom to inform them how their Affairs are carried on; and being incorporated into a perpetual Society by Patent from the Crown, and their Conſtitution ſo well adjuſted as to exclude all private and mercenary Views, it may be with Confidence expected that what is intruſted with them can ſcarce be miſapplied or miſcarry, but will be

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carefully laid out according to the Direction of the Donors. Such as design to have their Contribution added to the Stock, or given out for maintaining poor Burſars, may have it done as they pleaſe: And there is hereunto ſubjoined Forms of Subſcriptions that charitable Perſons may make their own Choice.

Form of a Subſcription for the Stock.

I ——— bind and oblige me and mine betwixt and the ——— Day of ——— next to come, to pay to —— Treaſurer to the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, or his Succeſſors in Office, the Sum of ——— to be added to their Stock, and the Intereſt imployed for the pious Uſes mentioned in the Letters patent erecting the foreſaid Society; In witneſs whereof, *&c.*

Form of Subſcription for Burſars.

I ——— conſidering that ſome in the Highlands and Iſlands, are ſo poor, that they are not in caſe to maintain their Children at Schools, whereby many are deprived of the Benefit deſigned by the Society for Chriſtian Knowledge; and judging ſuch poor ones to be the moſt proper Objects of Charity, and being informed that ſome of theſe are Youths of excellent Spirits, who may be uſeful in their Generations, and fit Inſtruments for furthering the foreſaid Society's great and good Deſign. I do oblige my ſelf betwixt and the ——— Day of —— to pay to —— Treaſurer to the ſaid Society, and his Succeſſors in Office the Sum of ——— not to be added to their Stock, but wholly beſtowed as the ſaid Society ſhall think fit, upon ſuch Boys in the Highlands and Iſlands having the *Iriſh* Tongue, whether they be of Proteſtant or Popiſh Parents, as are ſo poor that they cannot without help attend the Societies Schools, who, being firſt examined

examined by the Miniſter of the Pariſh, and Viſitors of the Society's Schools, ſhall be atteſted by them and the Schoolmaſter, to be Youths of more than ordinary Capacity for Learning, and are in ſuch Circumſtances that they cannot attend the Schools without ſome Aſſiſtance for their Maintenance; and I humbly propoſe that each of them have 12 *d. Scots* every Day they attend the School, and as much for the Lord's Day, when they attend the whole Week at the School, with one Suit of Clothes, and a pair of Shoes, after their attending a full Year at the Society's Schools, and another Suit and Shoes at the End of two full Years Attendance thereon: And if after that, they incline to continue a third Year at the School, to be further perfected, in order to be put in a Capacity to teach a School, and will in the mean Time aſſiſt the Schoolmaſter, that in that Caſe, they have 18 *d.* each Day they attend during that Year; and for their Encouragement, that it may be declared, the Society will be ready to imploy them to be Schoolmaſter, when they ſhall be certified by a Presbytery for that End, according to the Society's *formula.* All which I hereby commit to the Society's Management as they ſhall ſee cauſe. In Teſtimony whereof, *&c.*

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